

Findings on Disproportionate Risks of Climate Change to Low Income Individuals

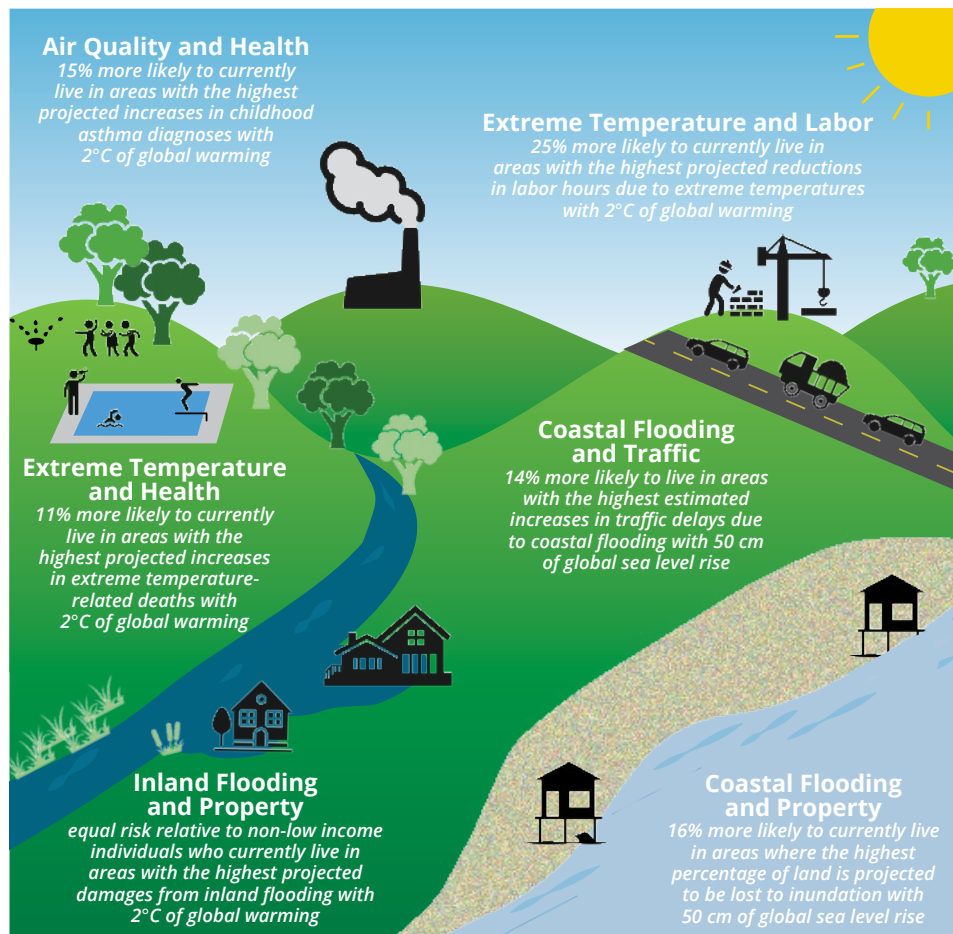
Climate change impacts will likely increase in both frequency and magnitude over the coming decades across the United States, with risks to human health, the economy, and the environment. Importantly, these risks are not equally distributed across the population. Understanding the potential disproportionate impacts on socially vulnerable groups is critical for developing effective strategies to address these risks.

This report, [*Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts*](#), contributes to a better understanding of the degree to which four socially vulnerable populations—defined based on income, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and age—may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change in six categories:

- Air Quality and Health;
- Extreme Temperature and Health;
- Extreme Temperature and Labor;
- Coastal Flooding and Traffic;
- Coastal Flooding and Property; and
- Inland Flooding and Property.

The report analyzes risks to low income individuals relative to non-low income individuals in scenarios with 2°C of global warming of 50 cm of sea level rise. Low-income individuals are found to have relatively greater risks of living in areas with:

- the highest increases in childhood asthma diagnoses from climate-driven changes in PM_{2.5};



- the highest increases in mortality rates due to climate-driven changes in extreme temperatures;
- the highest rates of labor hour losses for weather-exposed workers due to extreme temperatures;
- the highest increases in traffic delays associated with high-tide flooding; and
- the highest percentage of land lost to inundation.

For more information, please refer to the report and accompanying [appendices](#).

This report estimates the likelihood that low income individuals currently live in areas where the of climate change are projected to be highest, compared to those with higher income. Results are based on current demographic distributions and projected changes in climate hazards.